Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2015 High 19°C/Low 9°C Windy

The little boy who made the world 'wake up'

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Alan Kurdi, 2012–2015

Three-year-old Alan Kurdi was excited to go on a boat ride.

The toddler, who was always giggling, was especially delighted when a mist of water sprayed his face on the boat that promised to smuggle about a dozen Syrian refugees living in Turkey, including his family, to Greece, which was to be the next stop for the Kurdis in their attempt to seek refuge with family in Canada.

"Alan was laughing his head off and he said, 'Oh, that's cold,'" his aunt Tima Kurdi recounted from a conversation with the toddler's father, her brother Abdullah. She lives in Coquitlam, B.C.

The next morning, the world woke up to a photo of Alan's lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach. A wave hit the boat, causing it to flip over in a disaster that killed at least 12 people, including Alan's five-year-old brother Ghalib and his 26-year-old mother Rehan. His father Abdullah survived.

Splashed on front pages and screens around the world, the image of the young boy prompted cries for more action on the crisis. Canadian leaders interrupted their campaigns to address the tragedy and Alan's connection to Canada.

Alan and his brother were born in Kobani, a Syrian town on the Turkish border, their aunt Tima told reporters at her suburban home, where she was hoping her family would live if they were granted refugee status.

Tima, a hairdresser, has been in Canada since 1992. Her family owns land in Kobani, where they grow olive trees and relatives gather every summer. It was there that Abdullah, a barber, first met Rehan, a seamstress, when he was helping tend the trees.

Alan Kurdi THE CANADIAN PRESS

The pair were married and lived in Damascus before moving back to Kobani when Rehan was expecting their first son, Ghalib.

It's not clear exactly when the family fled to Turkey, but in a letter to Chris Alexander, Canada's citizenship and immigration minister, Tima hints at a treacherous journey where her family encountered rebels.

She called their situation desperate and wrote it was impossible for them to return to Syria to get the documents Canada requires.

In the meantime, they lived with another Syrian family in Turkey, with Tima sending money to pay the bills. Abdullah did "everything in his power" to make enough money to feed his family, doing his best to get into construction work.

Tima last saw her nephews on a trip to Turkey in 2014. Alan was always giggling in the background when Tima spoke to relatives on the phone. Ghalib's favourite food was bananas, and he asked his aunt to buy him a bicycle. He wondered if there were a lot of toys in Greece.

Tima said the family wants the world to take action.

"That's what Abdullah said to me: 'It's OK, it has to be my kids and my wife to wake up the world. It's OK. So maybe the others will be safe … it's written to happen.'" WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Syrian refugee crisis

7 pages of coverage inside

- **Syrian living in Vancouver on the 'heartbreaking' tragedy, pg. 3**
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- **What you can do to help, pg. 18**

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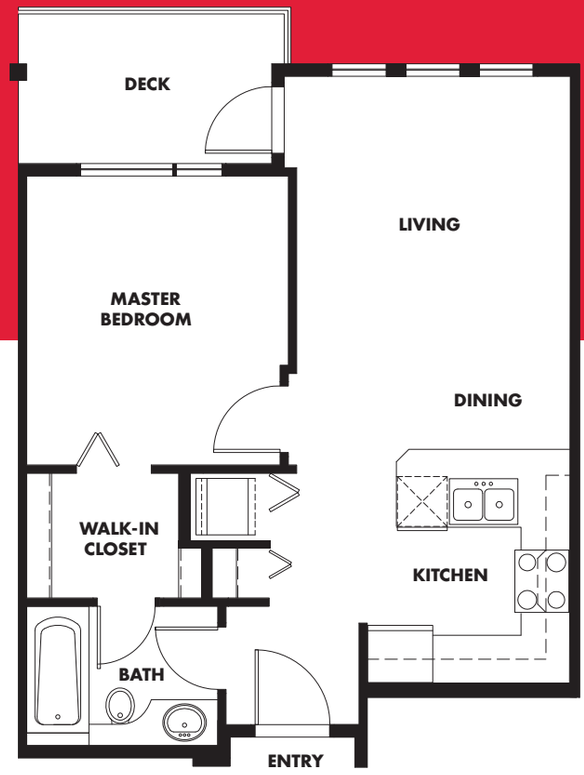

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Majd Agha, 22, says he felt sick when he saw the disturbing image of three-year-old Alan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach. CONTRIBUTED

'It's absolutely heartbreaking'

REFUGEE CRISIS

Syrian living in Vancouver speaks out

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

When Majd Agha saw the disturbing photo of a three-year-old boy washed up on a Turkish beach on Wednesday, he says he felt sick.

The image of little Alan Kurdi, who drowned along with his five-year-old brother and their mother when their small rubber boat capsized as it headed for Greece, has haunted the world this week. But for Agha, a 22-year-old Syrian refugee living in Vancouver, the photo hit close to home.

"It's absolutely heartbreaking," he told Metro. "I couldn't sleep the whole night. I was just thinking about this kid. It shows how international action is not taking place."

Agha arrived in Vancouver just over a year ago as a refugee through the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. He describes himself as one of the fortunate few who was able to escape Syria, and live to share his story.

"It makes me feel sad," he said. "It makes me feel sad that I'm the only Syrian guy who was lucky enough to escape this crisis."

Four years ago, Agha fled his hometown of Damascus, the capital of Syria, shortly after civil war broke out in that country. First reaching Russia, he later travelled to Turkey and then Thailand with the hope of eventually being able to enter Europe and pursue his education.

> **It sickens me that politicians are using this to their advantage. This kid drowned. It's horrible. It's horrifying. It's an ugly photo for a beautiful kid.** Majd Agha

While at the airport, however, he said Thai authorities detained him. At that point, he called the UNHCR with the hope of being declared a refugee.

He was eventually taken to the Philippines, one of the UNHCR transit countries for at-risk refugees on their way to resettlement, where he spent three months in limbo waiting to learn where he would be moved.

Agha arrived in Vancouver in July 2014 and said he immediately fell in love with the city.

Although he has worked hard to rebuild his life in Canada, enrolling in bioinformatics courses at Langara College and getting a part-time job in retail, Agha said he still misses his family dearly.

Three months ago, he applied for tourist visas for his mother Wafaa and sister Heba in the hope that they will be able to visit him. But that application was denied, he said.

"My mom hasn't seen me for 2-1/2 years," he said. "I believe she has all the right to come and see me for a few weeks at least. But that application was denied and the reason was they were afraid they wouldn't leave Canada when the visa expires. Ridiculous."

Every day, Agha said he suffers from severe anxiety worrying for the safety of his family. Two days ago, he said 13 bombs landed within 50 metres of his family's apartment.

Despite the constant danger, he said he would never allow his family to try to escape by boat, like the Kurdi family. They don't want to try either, he said.

"They'd rather die than go on a boat," he said. "They'd literally rather die than sink in the sea and be eaten by the fishes."

Agha said he doesn't believe Canada is doing enough to honour its promise of helping with the Syrian refugee crisis.

In January, the federal government pledged to give 10,000 Syrian refugees a home in Canada over the next three years. The latest numbers show that 1,074 people had resettled in Canada as part of that commitment, in addition to 1,300 Syrians settled under a pledge made in 2013.

According to the Immigrant Services Society of B.C., 72 Syrian refugees have settled in Metro Vancouver between January 1, 2013, and Aug. 31, 2015.

But Agha said he hasn't met a single other Syrian refugee in Vancouver. He believes that speaks to a Conservative government turning its back on a desperate nation.

Seeing Canada's three main party leaders all speaking out about the photo of Alan Kurdi and the plight of his family on Wednesday, Agha said he was disgusted to see the image being used as part of the election campaign.

"It sickens me that politicians are using this to their advantage," he said. "This kid drowned. It's horrible. It's horrifying. It's an ugly photo for a beautiful kid."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugees desperate: Lawyer

SYRIAN CRISIS

Senator wants Canada to allow 100,000 people to settle

NEAL HALL
For Metro | Vancouver

Syrian refugees are taking desperate measures to come to Canada because of the complex and lengthy process, says a Vancouver immigration lawyer.

"Current processing times are four to five years," Laura Best explained about the legal process for Syrian refugees to come to Canada, many of whom have friends and relatives here who sponsor them.

She said some try to enter Canada on visitor visas and then seek refugee status, but since the war began in Syria, causing four million refugees to be displaced, the federal government often refuses visitor visas on the belief that they will not return to their home country.

"What we're seeing is that when legal avenues are closed, desperate measures are taken," Best said, referring to the heartbreaking case of a man trying to flee Turkey for Greece by boat with his family to live with his brother in Coquitlam.

In this picture taken on Tuesday, Syrian refugees walk on railway tracks next to the Serbian town of Horgos to cross the border and enter Hungary. SANTI PALACIOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The boat capsized and the man's wife and two young children drowned. Photos of the tragedy are horrifying evidence of the Syrian crisis.

Best said those seeking to legally enter Canada can either seek refugee sponsorship by the Canadian government or private sponsorship through church groups and non-government organizations.

Another option is having a group of five Canadian adults, known as the G5 program, sponsor a refugee and have representatives in the area where the refugee plans to live.

Even if all their paperwork is in order, Syrians must spend four to five years waiting to come to Canada to be settled, she added.

"This is after the sponsorship is first approved in Canada."

She said Canada announced in January of this year that it would take 10,000 Syrian refugees over a three-year period for resettlement in Canada.

Best, who has followed the issue closely, said it appears the majority of those 10,000 are being privately sponsored by churches and other NGOs.

"The numbers that Canada is talking about resettling is so low ... 3,000 a year [from Syria] is a drop in the bucket," she said, noting that Canada takes in about 250,000 refugees a year.

On Wednesday, former Conservative cabinet minister and B.C. senator Pat Carney publicly posted a letter she wrote to Immigration Minister Chris Alexander, suggesting Canada needs to react to the "humanitarian crisis of Biblical proportions" in Europe by immediately allowing 100,000 refugees to resettle in Canada.

SkyTrain Running Rail Replacement Sept. 5-7

SkyTrain Expo Line service will be reduced Sept. 5 to end of service Sept. 7 for rail replacement. Trains will single track at Commercial-Broadway and Main Street-Science World stations. The Millennium Line will operate between VCC-Clark and Columbia stations only. Please allow at least 20 minutes extra travel time.

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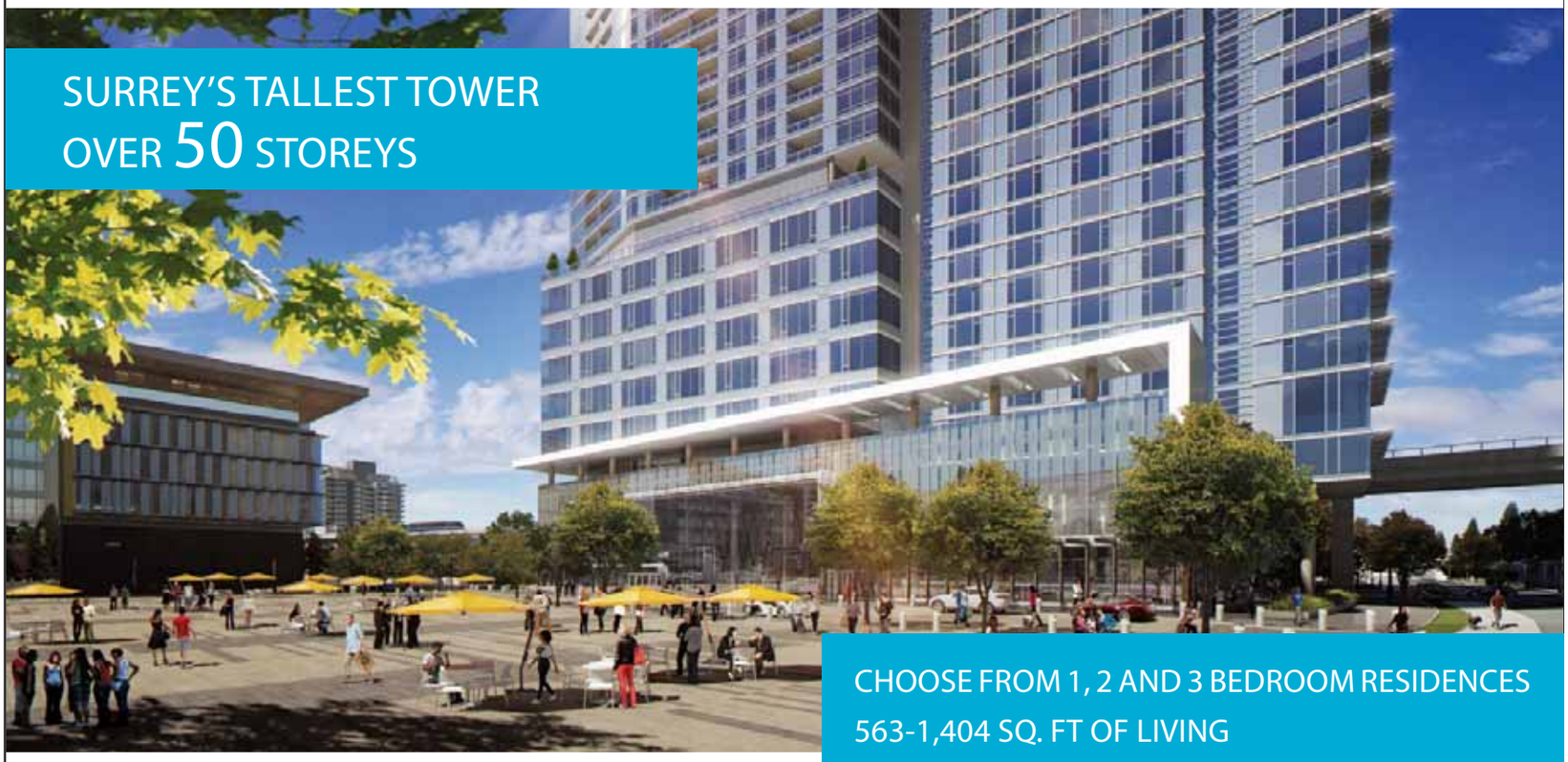

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Con artist on the loose

THEFT

Man believed to be targeting local business

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver store clerk who was the victim of a brazen distraction theft this week says she was just one of many who appear to have been targeted by the same con artist.

Drones Plus assistant manager Yabsera Aklilu, who had her wallet and passport stolen, said she has been contacted by two people who claim the same man had targeted their stores and others in downtown Vancouver and Kitsilano.

"Apparently this is the sixth or seventh instance of him doing this," she told Metro. "He's been doing this for a while. They just never had footage before of him, but we do now."

On Tuesday, shortly before 7 p.m., a man entered Drones Plus on West 4th Avenue near Pine Street and asked to use the store's phone.

A screen grab of a surveillance video showing a man who appears to steal a store clerk's wallet and passport at Drones Plus in Vancouver on Tuesday. CONTRIBUTED

He claimed that he needed to call for help because he was locked out of his car and his dog was inside the vehicle. While Aklilu was distracted, the man swiped her wallet from the store counter, taking with it her cash, credit and ID cards, and Ethiopian passport.

Drones Plus released surveillance video footage of the theft on Wednesday with the hope that someone might recognize him.

On Thursday, Aklilu said she had yet to meet with Vancouver police to share the surveillance footage.

She said the slow police response is frustrating, especially when Drones Plus was again targeted by thieves overnight Wednesday.

She said someone broke into the store and stole $15,000 worth of equipment and merchandise, including her own personal camera.

Const. Brian Montague of Vancouver police said Thursday that investigators are looking into both incidents. No arrests have been made, he said.

ABBOTSFORD

Bystander killed in targeted shooting

The killing of an innocent 74-year-old man during a targeted shooting in British Columbia's Fraser Valley has left neighbours in fear, police searching for suspects and local politicians calling for community unity.

The unidentified Abbotsford senior was struck by a bullet while standing by a fence in his yard just after 7 p.m. Wednesday, said Const. Ian MacDonald of the Abbotsford Police Department.

He said a vehicle in a neighbouring driveway was hit by several bullets.

"We don't believe this individual would have been shot at for any reason," MacDonald said. "He has no negative background whatsoever. This is an upstanding citizen. He merely was outside."

The senior died on the scene.

MacDonald said several homes in the area have security cameras and he hopes they will help in the investigation.

Sgt. Jennifer Pound of the Integrated Homicide Enforcement Team said the unit has taken over the case.

"There is a devastated family left behind to grieve this with a lot of answers that they're not going to get," she said.

Pound said a dark SUV was seen leaving the area, and officers must still examine surveillance video.

Henry Zukowski, a teacher who lives up the street, said surveillance cameras haven't deterred gang activity that has been a problem for at least a year.

He called on the city to hold a forum so residents can voice their concerns.

"Nobody should feel threatened and be subjected to this kind of behaviour, to lose a loved one, an innocent bystander," Zukowski said. "The city obviously hasn't done enough to protect us and police."

Shiminder Sharma said he heard multiple gunshots and watched the victim's son run out to meet police.

"We are scared. We want this to be finished," Sharma said.

The City of Abbotsford announced Thursday that a forum on community safety will take place Sept. 10.

Mayor Henry Braun said he believes the community will find solutions to the violence by coming together.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Shelter reopens

HOMELESSNESS

Storm floods temporary housing and cuts electricity

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The 155 residents of a hotel converted into temporary housing are allowed back now that the city has completed repairs in the aftermath last weekend's windstorms.

The former Quality Inn at 1335 Howe St. was evacuated Monday after a flood related to the storm knocked out the building's dated electrical systems, making it unsafe to occupy.

The residents of the building, which the city converted into interim housing last winter after making a deal with the developer of the site, were relocated to three nearby shelters as crews scrambled to fix the damage.

A temporary generator has been set up to provide electricity to the building.

In a statement released on Thursday, the city announced that the fire department has approved occupancy now that the repairs are complete and that residents will be transitioned back into their units.

Tenants who lost their perishable food in the power outage will be provided with food from the food bank.

The developer is working on a rezoning application for the site and leased the building to the city for two years so it doesn't sit empty.

The city is actively looking for ways to house the tenants once the two years is up in winter 2016. It does not anticipate an extension of the lease.

WITH FILES FROM EMILY JACKSON

Temporary housing at the former Quality Inn at 1335 Howe St. is open again after flooding earlier this week forced the building to be evacuated. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

ROADS

Man pinned beneath car rescued

A 28-year-old Maple Ridge man is in serious condition after he was trapped under a car in a water-filled ditch early Wednesday morning.

The victim was underwater until the fire department was able to use air bags to lift the car to get him out. He was then airlifted to hospital.

Police believe the man was not an occupant of the vehicle and investigators are trying to determine how he ended up underneath the car.

Another man was briefly trapped in a vehicle after two-car accident in Surrey at about 11 p.m. Wednesday.

The lone male driver, a resident of Surrey, was driving a Chrysler 200 westbound on 101st Ave. and was turning left on 132nd St. when he was struck on the driver side by a black BMW going northbound on 132nd St.

The driver of the Chrysler 200 was trapped in the vehicle until Surrey firefighters used the Jaws of Life to remove the man from the car.

NEAL HALL/FOR METRO

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Changes coming to DTES health services

VCH

Integration expected to improve care

Neal Hall
For Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health will begin implementing changes this fall in the delivery of its services and programs in the Downtown Eastside.

VCH said Thursday it doesn't plan to change the amount of funding — $55 million a year — but new community-based services and programs will be funded by reallocating resources.

And it may not renew existing contracts with standalone services without formal connections to health care.

The aim is to improve patient care for those with chronic diseases and acute mental health and addiction problems by integrating services. After almost three years of consultation, the plan will include:

— A new mental health and addictions drop-in model with stronger connections to health services.

— A new low-threshold addictions service that removes obstacles to treatment and provides untreated people with a range of medical addiction therapies.

— New hours for Insite to increase morning access, when demand for supervised injection services are highest.

"I applaud Vancouver Coastal Health for making the changes needed to improve patient care in this neighbourhood," Health Minister Terry Lake said in a statement Thursday.

"Many residents increasingly struggle with chronic conditions and changing addiction issues, but a lack of integration between health services creates barriers to accessing treatment."

A man sleeps under the cover of a building on Water Street. Vancouver Coastal Health's new Downtown Eastside strategy aims to remove barriers for people in the community.
NEAL HALL/FOR METRO

MILITARY

Alleged hacker set for extradition

A Chinese businessman arrested in Richmond last summer has been committed to be extradited to the U.S. to face charges of hacking into American computers to steal valuable military aircraft information.

The U.S. requested the extradition of Su Bin, also known as Stephen Su and Steven Subin, for trial on charges of corporate espionage.

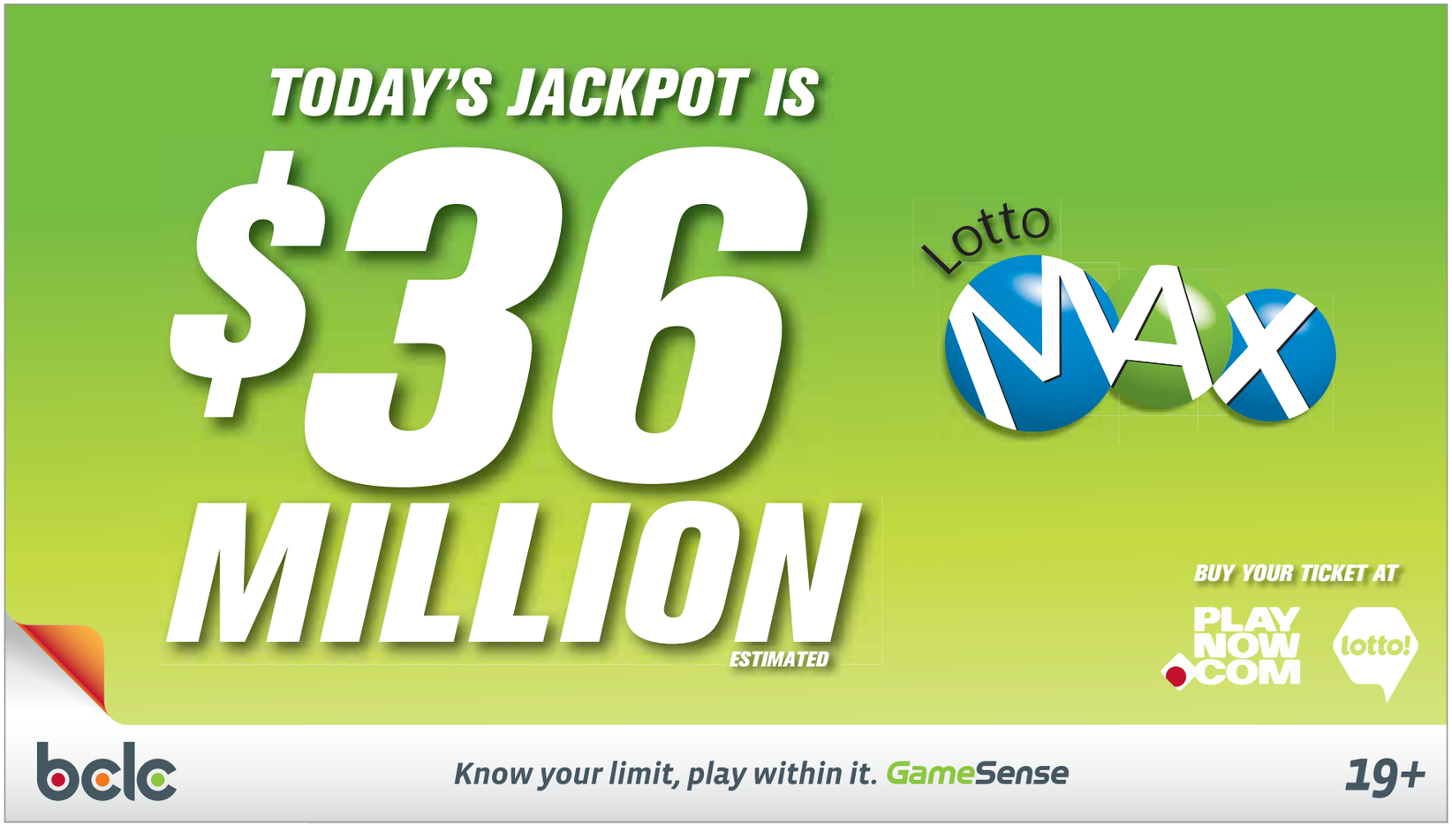
It is alleged he conspired with two un-indicted co-conspirators — members of the Chinese military referred to as "Co-con1" and "Co-con2" — to access without authorization the computer networks of aircraft manufacturers Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Exelis and Airbus, and stole highly sensitive technical information related to C-17, F-35 and F-22 military aircraft.

Su had a company called LodeTech, which had an office in the Vancouver area, where he lived. He was arrested on June 28, 2014.

In a judgment released Thursday, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Greyell stated that when the matter goes to trial in the U.S., "Col. Russell of the U.S. Air Force will testify the C-17, the F-35 and the F-22 aircraft were munitions of war and that communicating information pertaining to them was prejudicial to the interests of the U.S. There is also evidence both Co-con1 and Co-con2 were members of the Chinese military, photographed in their military uniforms."

Su remains in custody pending his surrender to the U.S. but will have 30 days to appeal the court decision. The minister of justice has to order Su's surrender to the U.S. NEAL HALL/FOR METRO

> **"Col. Russell of the U.S. Air Force will testify the ... aircraft were munitions of war and that communicating information pertaining to them was prejudicial to the interests of the U.S.**
> B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Greyell



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OUR ROLE

World's media note Canadian connection

Canada made negative headlines around the world Thursday as news outlets relayed information — some of it erroneous — about the Canadian connection to the lifeless Syrian toddler who washed ashore on a Turkish beach.

Some international media coverage focused on Canada's role in the tragic death of Alan Kurdi, his five-year-old brother and his mother, details of which shifted over the course of the day.

Initial news stories reported that the family had been refused asylum in Canada.

However, the boy's aunt in British Columbia later explained that, while the family wanted to come to Canada, the boy's father had not yet formally applied for safe haven. It was another relative, the boy's uncle, who had applied and been rebuffed.

In any case, the story circled the globe, with one report saying Canada had offered citizenship to the child's father, the only surviving member of Kurdi's family, but he had declined.

A headline across Italy's La Repubblica website quoted the boy's father: "I don't want asylum in Canada anymore — I'll take my son back to Kobane."

Canadian immigration officials later said no offer of citizenship was made.

The U.K.'s Independent newspaper ran a headline about the federal campaign: "Canadian immigration minister suspends election campaign to investigate why Syrian family's refugee application was refused."

It was a similar headline in Algeria's El Watan newspaper, which carried the early incorrect detail: "Canada refused asylum to the family of little Alan Kurdi."

Most of these stories were sidebars to the bigger-picture issue of the worst displaced-persons' crisis since the Second World War. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Fatima Kurdi speaks to reporters outside her home in Coquitlam on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

'Help the refugees'

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Tragedy

Aunt speaks out about family's plight seeking asylum

The aunt of two drowned Syrian boys recalled her brother's harrowing battle to save his sons at two emotional news conferences Thursday in Coquitlam, B.C., and said the tragedy would help wake people up and pay attention to the migrant crisis.

"Now the whole world is going to watch my story. Where was all the world before when my kids were hungry? When I didn't have a job?" said Tima Kurdi.

"I want to tell the rest of the world, at this point, to step in and help the refugees."

Kurdi said her brother Abdullah described to her the horror of the boys dying in his arms and screamed: "Please don't die!" at their lifeless bodies.

Kurdi addressed the media twice Thursday, in order to clarify her family's plight seeking asylum in Canada.

She had applied for refugee status in Canada for her brother Mohamad, and planned to apply for Abdullah next. But when Mohamad's application was denied, she knew there was no hope bringing Abdullah here.

Kurdi said she started Mohamad's application first because his children were older and needed to be in school.

"It was really bad to tell them this ... 'I'm sorry I can't bring you here,'" she said.

Mohamad settled in Germany, and Abdullah wanted to follow with his own family. But Abdullah's wife was scared of the perilous journey across the water to Greece, Kurdi said.

"She said to me, 'I really don't want to go, I don't know how to swim,'" Kurdi said. "I said, 'Just put your life jacket on, you'll be fine.'"

Kurdi said she did all she could to help her brothers and their families, including wiring them $5,000 to help pay the smuggler for their escape. "I shouldn't have sent the money," she said.

Kurdi said she moved to Canada in 1992 after marrying a Canadian and worked to bring family members to Canada and safety.

Asked what should be done to prevent future tragedies, she said: "Stop the war."

She said Abdullah now wants to travel to their hometown of Kobani in Syria near the Turkish border to bury his boys.

"He has to bury them in their own country," she said.

Kurdi praised NDP MP Fin Donnelly for trying to help and delivering a plea for assistance to Conservative Immigration Minister Chris Alexander.

"And no response," she said.

The Kurdi family had made a privately sponsored refugee application to the Canadian authorities that was rejected in June due to complications with applications from Turkey.

Kurdi said the family had money and plenty of room to house little Alan Kurdi, his brother and parents. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Immigration minister rising star in PM's cabinet

The Conservative candidate who finds himself at the centre of controversy over Canada's response to the European refugee crisis is a respected former diplomat who is considered a rising star in Stephen Harper's government.

Chris Alexander, the candidate for Ajax-Pickering and Harper's minister of citizenship and immigration, dropped his re-election campaign on Thursday after poignant photos of a Syrian boy who drowned off the coast of Turkey were seen around the world.

In an email to Torstar News Service, Alexander said he was returning to Ottawa to be briefed on the migrant crisis.

NDP candidate Fin Donnelly told The Canadian Press that the boy's family had been trying to come to Canada, and Donnelly had personally asked Alexander to look into the case.

Before entering politics, Alexander, 46, made a name for himself in the world of international diplomacy.

In 2011, he beat Liberal incumbent Mark Holland to become MP for the riding of Ajax-Pickering, and, despite his age and inexperience as an MP, was appointed to cabinet two years later.

As minister of citizenship and immigration he presided over sweeping reforms to Canada's immigration system that he said were necessary to eliminate fraud and wasteful spending, but were heavily criticized by refugee advocates and opposition parties.

On Wednesday night, as photos of three-year-old Alan Kurdi's lifeless body were already being seen around the world, Alexander defended Canada's response to the refugee crisis on the CBC, saying the country is "a model of humanitarian action."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

REFORMS

The reforms to Canada's immigration system included reducing social assistance to refugees and imposing stricter conditions on obtaining citizenship.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks about the Syrian refugee crisis during a campaign event in Surrey on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Policy won't stop refugee deaths: PM

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Political Fallout

Immigration minister halts campaign in wake of tragedy

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada's refugee policy isn't enough to stop the tragic deaths of refugees in Europe.

"We could drive ourselves crazy with grief, obviously we try to do what we can do to help," Harper said, but added that more resources to speed up the flow of refugees is not "of itself a reasonable moral reaction or solution to this problem."

Speaking at a Conservative rally in Surrey, B.C., Harper addressed the refugee crises in Europe that hit home yesterday when photographs of a drowned Syrian three-year-old boy made headlines. He said he and his wife found it "heart-wrenching."

But Harper said the report that the child pictured in the image and his family was denied refugee asylum is "not correct."

"There was no record of an application received for Mr. Abdullah Kurdi and his family," Citizenship and Immigration Canada spokesman Jean-Bruno Villeneuve said in a statement.

"Refugee policy alone is not a solution to this process," Harper said.

News of the tragedy derailed Conservative election campaign events Thursday.

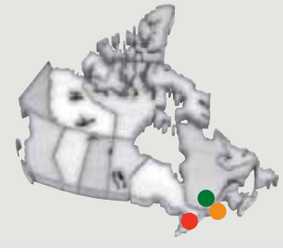
Defence Minister Jason Kenney cancelled a security-related immigration announcement; Harper delayed an infrastructure announcement.

Immigration Minister Chris Alexander dropped campaign plans to rush to Ottawa and "ascertain both the facts of the case of the Kurdi family and to receive an update on the migrant crisis," he said in an emailed statement.

The boys' father, Abdullah Kurdi, told reporters after identifying his sons' bodies Thursday that Canadian officials had offered him citizenship after seeing what had happened but that he declined.

"Canada did not offer citizenship to Mr. Abdullah Kurdi," immigration spokesman Villeneuve said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE FRIDAY



- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Toronto and Richmond Hill, Ont.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Brossard, Que.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Montreal.

Stephen Harper's itinerary was unavailable.

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Refugees from Syria walk along the roads of the border town of Idomeni in northern Greece, hoping to cross into Macedonia, last month. SANTI PALACIOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Religious strife at heart of conflict

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Tragedy

Hundreds of thousands are dead, millions are displaced

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Fighting in Syria has claimed the lives of 240,000 people, many of them civilians, and nearly half of the country's 23 million residents have been displaced.

This is how the crisis began, and what Canada is doing to help.

• **1963**: The Ba'athist regime, led by General Hafez al-Assad, seizes power in Syria in a coup d'état. The Assad family is seen to represent Syria's Shi'ite Muslims, leading to tensions with the country's majority Sunni population, as well as a minority of ethnic Kurds.

• **2000**: Hafez al-Assad dies, passing control of the country to his son, Bashar al-Assad.

• **January 2011**: What's now known as the Syrian Civil War begins with the Arab Spring of 2011. Protests are staged across the country calling for Assad's resignation and the end of Ba'athist rule. Assad responds to the protests with military force, leading to the deaths of hundreds of protestors.

• **July 2011**: By the latter half of 2011, a coalition of armed forces known as the Free Syrian Army has formed to oppose Assad's military. Fighting erupts in several Syrian towns and the tide of displaced refugees begins.

• **April 2012**: Kofi Annan, acting as the United Nations representative for Syria, tries unsuccessfully to broker a ceasefire between the Assad regime and the FSA.

• **June 2012**: The UN officially declares Syria to be in a state of civil war.

• **2013**: Throughout 2013, the conflict in Syria attracts Islamic extremists and other militants from the surrounding region, including the newly formed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, or ISIS).

• **July 2013**: Canadian Immigration Minister Jason Kenney pledges to bring 1,300 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of 2014. The Conservatives claim this target was met by March 2015, although organizations working with the refugees have disputed the government's numbers.

• **October 2014**: The Canadian Parliament approves air strikes against ISIL targets in Syria. Throughout the conflict, the Conservative government has focused its messaging on combatting extremists in the region rather than the humanitarian crisis. For example, in the government's official timeline of the crisis — available online — the phrase ISIS is used 55 times, while "refugee" appears only twice.

• **January 2015**: The federal government announces plans to take in 10,000 Syrian refugees over the next three years. At this point in the conflict, Germany has already accepted at least 70,000 refugees from Syria.

• **August 2015**: The Conservatives reiterate their plan to resettle 10,000 refugees from war-torn Syria, saying they will open additional spots for persecuted religious minorities. To date, however, the country has only accepted about 2,500 refugees.

4,088,078

The number of Syrian refugees around the world registered with the United Nations as of Aug. 29, 2015.

7.6M

The estimated number of Syrians who have been displaced within the country.

$700M

Canada's contribution to aid efforts in Syria.

2,302

The number of Syrian refugees resettled in Canada, as of July 27, 2015.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS AND TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Mennonites lend a hand in Alberta

Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

The end of a Palestinian family's journey that was first forced by war into Syria, and then pushed by war to a refugee camp in Lebanon, is a grey three-bedroom house that Mohamad Mawed is renting in north Edmonton.

Reminders of Syria are close by: down the road is the baklava-packed Paradiso Pastries, and a few blocks further, the Al-Rashid Mosque.

But inside the house are the six people Mawed has fought for a year to get out of Syria and into Edmonton: his brother, Ahmad, Ahmad's wife, Hayat, and their four children.

And to do so, Mawed — who came to Edmonton in early 2014, after leaving a job in the United Arab Emirates — has had the help of a unique interfaith partnership between the Islamic Family and Social Services Association and the Mennonite community in Alberta.

"I tried to find some solution for them," Mawed said Thursday, describing his push to get Ahmad and his family out of a precarious situation in a refugee camp Lebanon, where they'd fled to three years ago from Damascus.

Tomorrow, Mawed said, he's filing paperwork to try to bring another group of relatives, 17 in total, to Canada.

The connection between the Mennonite and Muslim community in Alberta has been building for years, said Suzanne Gross, a manager at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers.

Gross said when the Syrian refugee crisis exploded, the linkages allowed the Mennonite communities in Edmonton and Calgary to help more directly than they otherwise could.

The main barrier for non-Syrian Canadians to help, she said, is the Canadian government's requirement that Syrian refugees be sponsored by family or friends to move here.

Thanks to the established links, though, Syrian families were found in Edmonton and families and friends needing refuge were put on the list.

All told, across Alberta there have been 268 refugee cases filed through this partnership, and 36 people from Syria have landed in Edmonton over the last three months.

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Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson says he's watching the unfolding refugee crisis in Europe "with great concern."
PATRICK WOODBURY/THE CANDIAN PRESS FILE

Ottawa ready to open its doors, says mayor

metro The Syrian Crisis
Canadians Rally

Capital eyeing more refugee settlement

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson sent a formal letter to Canada's immigration minister Thursday, saying the city wants to open its doors to more refugees fleeing war-torn Syria.

The mayor's urgent outreach to Chris Alexander comes after a photo emerged of a lifeless three-year-old Syrian boy, Alan Kurdi, washed up on a beach on the shores of Turkey, which has sparked worldwide outrage.

The dramatic photo, splashed across newspapers around the world, has put a human face on the refugee crisis in Europe that has worsened in recent months.

The letter said Watson is watching "with great concern" the events surrounding the crisis and affirmed he is committed to assisting with the settlement in Canada's capital of those affected.

"I would like to ask for the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and other relevant federal partners to identify what role the municipal sector could play," wrote Watson.

"It would be helpful if you could assign a senior official to liaise with City of Ottawa staff to ensure a strong co-ordination of federal plans on the local level."

> **"I would like to ask for the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada ... to identify what role the municipal sector could play.**
> Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson

The letter also mentioned Ottawa's history of aiding people in need, an apparent nod to former mayor Marion Dewar, who, in 1979, welcomed thousands of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees to the city. Her Project 4000 led to residents sponsoring refugees who made Ottawa their home.

Speaking on CBC's Power and Politics program Wednesday, Dewar's son, Ottawa Centre NDP candidate Paul Dewar, mentioned the bold initiative in his heated criticism of how the federal Conservatives have responded to the crisis.

"I remember it well. My mother was the mayor of Ottawa and she opened the doors of Ottawa to 4,000 refugees at the time and the government changed its numbers to 60,000. It was a proud day for our country," said Dewar.

Call them refugees, not migrants: Experts

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

It's a world of difference what you call Syrian people trying to cross over into other European countries.

Some may still be calling them migrants, but two local experts insist they fit every definition of refugees.

"It's a forced migration and at some point, I think, the category of refugee needs to be applied," said Jens Hanssen, a Middle East expert who's been studying the Arab awakening in historical perspective.

A German-Canadian who's lived and learned Arabic in Damascus, Hanssen has been watching as his native country made a distinction between the two terms and accepted Syrians as refugees. He couldn't agree with the policy more, comparing the Syrians to Jews in 1900s. Those Jews who didn't flee Germany ended up in concentration camps, he said.

"We have ISIS taking them into slavery, we have the Assad regime bombing them from the air," he said. "They are as refugees as anybody in history where that term has applied."

Migrant generally refers to people who cross borders into countries where they aren't citizens, said Audrey Macklin, chairwoman of human rights law at the University of Toronto. Refugees are just a subset of migrants, but the term only applies to people escaping war, catastrophe or for any other security concern, she said.

The difference is in responsibilities each category brings. States don't have any obligations to migrants and can even refuse to receive them, but they can't refuse refugees, she said.

"When you call somebody a refugee, you acknowledge that you have obligations toward them," she said.

Politicians who are referring to Syrians as migrants or other terms are simply deflecting the responsibility to protect them, as signatories of the refugee convention, Macklin said.

"I think that those who are fleeing the war right now from Syria are refugees."

Over 150,000 migrants have reached Hungary this year, most coming through the southern border with Serbia, and many apply for asylum but quickly try to leave for richer EU countries, like Germany. ZOLTAN BALOGH/MTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Train takes migrants to asylum camp

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Political Fallout

New standoff after station stops service to Western Europe

Thousands of people desperate to reach Western Europe rushed into a Budapest train station Thursday after police ended a two-day blockade, setting off a wave of anger and confusion as hundreds shoved their way onto a waiting train. But when it tried to drop them off at a Hungarian camp for asylum seekers, a bitter showdown began.

One man threw his wife and infant son onto the tracks, screaming in Arabic, "We won't move from here!" Police surrounded the prone family, pulled the husband away and handcuffed him as he wailed. His wife and diaper-clad boy — apparently uninjured — were freed and allowed to rejoin other migrants.

The scene was just one of many that unfolded Thursday as tempers flared in Hungary's war of wills with migrants trying to evade asylum checks and reach Western Europe.

As Hungary's anti-immigrant prime minister warned European partners that he intends to make his country's borders an impassible fortress for new arrivals, his government struggled to coax thousands of unwanted visitors away from the Budapest transportation hub that has been turned into a squalid refugee camp.

People fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Asia and Africa rushed into the Keleti train terminal when police unexpectedly withdrew Thursday morning, ending a blockade designed to stop migrants from boarding trains to their desired destinations in Germany and Austria.

In desperate scenes, people pushed each other to reach the train's six carriages, thinking that getting on board meant they would be first to escape Hungary. But instead of heading to the Austrian border, the overloaded train stopped at Bicske, a town northwest of Budapest that holds one of the country's five camps for asylum seekers — facilities the migrants want to avoid because they don't want to pursue asylum claims in economically depressed Hungary. As the train platform filled with police came into view, those inside chanted their disapproval.

The crowd, angrily waving train tickets to Vienna and Munich, refused police orders to board buses to the asylum centre, pushing their way past police and back onto the train. A day-long standoff ensued in which police and charity workers took turns handing food and water to the passengers, only to have them tossed out train windows in protest.

Back at the Budapest train station, announcements in Hungarian and English — but not Arabic, the language of most of those gathered inside — declared that all services from the station to Western Europe had been cancelled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Q&A: Syria's civil war and the migrant crisis

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Tragedy

Here's a look at the conflict and what compels Syrians to attempt the treacherous journey to Europe.

WHAT ARE THEY ESCAPING?

Barrel bombs, chemical weapons attacks, beheadings and starvation, to name just a few. Most of the refugees are driven by an overriding need to escape what has essentially become hell on earth, caught between Syrian President Bashar Assad's ruthless war machine and the Islamic State group's brutality. Many Syrians say most unbearable are the barrel bombs dropped daily on opposition-held areas by Syrian army helicopters. The makeshift, shrapnel-packed explosive devices known by Syrians as death barrels pulverize entire neighbourhoods once they hit the ground. They have killed tens of thousands of people over the past four years, according to human rights organizations. Islamic State militants have also been responsible for the exodus out of Syria. The militant group's takeover of a key town on the Turkish border in June, for instance, triggered a rush of desperate refugees pouring into Turkey, with some throwing their children over the border fence in a desperate attempt to get them to safety.

WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS?

Syria's brutal conflict, now in its fifth year, has touched off the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time, according to U.N. officials. The organization estimates that around 250,000 people have been killed and more than one million wounded since March 2011. About half the country's prewar population of 23 million has been displaced, including more than 4 million who have fled Syria. Tactics such as encircling populated areas have caused untold cases of starvation, malnutrition and chronic illness. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Your essential daily news
Weekend, September 4-7, 2015

WHEN THERE ARE NO WORDS: ARTISTS SKETCH THEIR GRIEF FOR ALAN KURDI

"How his story should have ended"
SAVE KOBANI, FACEBOOK

"New world map"
RAFAT ALKHATEEB

"I hope humanity finds a cure for visas" @KHALIDALBAIH

Untitled
YASER AHMAD

"La honte" ("The shame")
@JUICEXLX

" ض does not protect you" (This is a quotation from the poet Mahmoud Darwish) @NASERJAFARI

What you can do to help Syrian refugees in crisis

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Sadly, it took a heartbreaking picture of a three-year old lifeless body, face-down on the shore, for the world to pay closer attention to a crisis in Syria that has raged for more than four years.

At the office of Lifeline Syria, a Toronto-based initiative fighting to bring 1,000 Syrian refugees to Canada in the next two years, phones were ringing off the hook Thursday.

"I think the events of the last few days have really brought the situation to a peak in terms of public awareness and concern," Naomi Alboim, a member of the group's executive committee, told me.

That's a good thing. Don't get me wrong. What's not so good is that tragedy had to happen before the world reacted. Lifeline Syria has been urging people to attend its recruitment and training sessions on sponsoring Syrian refugees for months. At each of the past three such meetings, only about 100 people attended. With the new developments, and many more people coming forward, the Sept. 16 gathering could host well over 300 potential sponsors.

Alboim says individuals and groups who want to get involved should focus on raising funds — Citizenship and Immigration Canada requires that sponsors be able to provide $26,000 for a family of four. More information on how to get involved can be found at www.lifelinesyria.ca.

If you can't sponsor, donate. There are many organizations working directly in and around Syrian borders to help care for people in need.

UNICEF Canada called Syria the most dangerous place to be a child, and launched an emergency appeal to save Syrian children. You can donate through their website, www.unicef.ca.

Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières, or MSF) Canada is another organization that sends medical and humanitarian staff to provide emergency health care to Syrian refugees inside Syria, and in Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. You can donate through this page: www.msf.ca/en/donate-now.

More importantly, Canadians should pressure the government to simplify and speed up what has become a slow and complex sponsorship-application process. The Citizenship and Immigration website advises that applications typically take years to come to completion. And even the most urgent and luckiest applicants will wait more than six months.

Alboim, who once worked for the federal government, says she doesn't understand how the waiting times have gotten so long. She remembers that it used to take just days to get an application through.

It's important, as policy-makers seek military and diplomatic solutions, that ordinary citizens continue to think about ordinary lives caught in the turmoil.

"Six days is too long for people in desperation," she says.

It's important, as policy-makers seek military and diplomatic solutions to geopolitical problems, that ordinary citizens continue to think about ordinary lives caught in the turmoil, and find ways to chip in.

Let's not wait for the next tragedy to stir us to action.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If this is generous, Syrians are screwed. Resign, Alexander.

This should be the end. Not only of the Conservative's heel-dragging to settle desperate Syrian refugees, but of the political career of Chris Alexander.

On CBC's Power and Politics Wednesday, after the world saw the image of a dead boy tossed limply onto sand, the minister of citizenship and immigration scoffed at criticism of his government's response to the global refugee crisis.

The man, who in 2014 grossly misrepresented how few Syrians his government had settled, turned his evasive tongue on the media.

"The biggest conflict and humanitarian crisis of our time has been there for two years, and you and others have not put it in the headlines where it deserves to be," he accused.

A blatant lie, but worse, a callous remark. He was picking fights while people are dying.

The government maintains its refugee policy isn't to blame for the young boys' deaths. It's wrong.

We have an application bureaucracy that some of the boys' extended family had already found impossible to navigate, requiring documents that some refugees can't produce. So, instead, the boy's aunt paid for him, his brother and parents to flee on a boat. Only the father survived.

When the application process is deemed futile by those it could save, that's deadly.

Across the country, Canadians have battled the government to sponsor more Syrian refugees. Nova Scotia lobbied for that right, and met silence. And, because privately-sponsored Syrian refugees must have support from friends or family, Mennonites in Alberta have partnered with Syrians already in Canada to get more refugees to safety.

Yesterday, Alexander touted Canada as home to "one of most generous per capita immigration and refugee resettlement programs in the world." That is technically true, but in no way laudable.

There are four million Syrian refugees. The government has taken 2,500 so far, and, amid mounting pressure and an election campaign, committed this year to take a mere 20,000. If we're the most generous, Syrians are screwed.

Margaret Wente described Alexander in 2011 as an "unabashed idealist" and humanitarian. But there's no idealism in the Conservatives' treatment of refugees. Only an un-Canadian stinginess, and a cold disregard for human life.

No one man or country can fix a global humanitarian crisis. But one man can be held responsible for Canada's lacklustre efforts.

The dead boy is "reminding Canadians of our duty," Alexander said last night, in a mea-culpa appearance on Power and Politics. But time is up: He's already failed in his.

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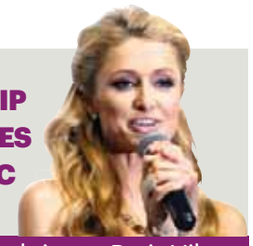


The anti-Bling Ring: Polish fireman returns giant diamond-studded ring to Paris Hilton

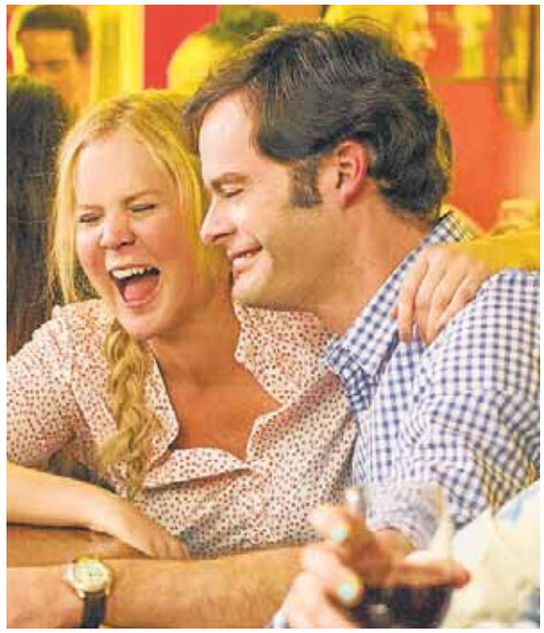
Dreaming the same dream

SUMMER OF 2015

Reports of cinema's death are greatly exaggerated

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



From Mad Max to Trainwreck, people flocked to the movies in huge numbers this summer, filling seats not simply to sit in air conditioning or dine on popcorn, but to participate in a time-honoured tradition, writes Richard Crouse. HANDOUT

The summer movie season began amid doom and gloom. I don't mean George Miller's filling screens with his dystopian vision of the future in Mad Max: Fury Road or the career ending fallout from the Sony hack. No, I mean the sky-is-falling predictions that circulated about the movie business.

Box office is down! No one goes to the movies anymore! And best of all: Movies are dead!

To paraphrase Mark Twain, I'm happy to say the reports of the death of cinema have been greatly exaggerated. The summer box office of 2015 will go down in the record books as the second-biggest in history with almost seven billion dollars generated by Minions, Ant-Man, Mad Max, dinosaurs and a sad little girl named Riley.

Superheroes helped put bums in seats, but 2015 won't be remembered as the Year of Ultron. Now that the summer silly season is over, a definite trend toward female-driven movies like Trainwreck, Pitch Perfect 2 and Spy showed that, as Amy Schumer told me, Hollywood has finally realized "our money works, too. Our banks also accept the female dollar."

But it wasn't just women going to the movies. With Jurassic World pulling in 1.6 billion samolians worldwide, it seems everyone put down the remote and went to the cinema.

We didn't rush out to everything — cash grabs like Ted 2 and Terminator: Genisys flopped — but the naysayers, the folks who, in January, were declaring movies to be a thing of the past, an old outmoded form of entertainment in the digital age, missed the point.

People flocked to the movies in huge numbers this summer, filling seats and studio bank accounts, not simply to sit in air conditioning for a few hours as relief from the summer heat or to dine out on popcorn and Twizzlers, but to engage in an age-old ritual.

Of course, you can watch movies at home or on your phone. New technology has made it easier than ever to enjoy a film from the comfort of your coach on a 60-inch screen with surround sound and healthy, homemade snacks, but no matter what set-up you may have in your living room, the thing missing is the ancient practice of sharing entertainment with a large group of strangers. It's a primal thing, hard-wired into our DNA, that dates back to when tribes of cave dwellers would sit around fires and tell stories through to the Globe Theatre, vaudeville, the talkies and right up to today's IMAX and AUX screenings.

People have gathered to be entertained since there were tales to be told because there is no better way to enjoy the storytelling experience than surrounded by strangers who are laughing, crying, gasping—whatever — in response to a shared event.

No matter how large your TV or comfortable your sofa, home viewing misses the magical element of community. In the theatre you're getting the sound and the picture the director intended, but more than that the experience brings people together, inspires conversation, respect and triggers actual physical interaction with others. Try that as you stream a movie on your iPhone.

Of course, as in any other community there are a few troublemakers — texters, seat kickers — but I spend more time in theatres than most and find the pros far outweigh any negatives.

In the era of home entertainment the idea of going to the movies may sound old fashioned or quaint but I like the way English novelist Angela Carter described watching a film in a theatre. She called it "dreaming the same dream in unison" and that, for me will never go out of style.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

A Walk in the Woods ★★★
The Transporter Refueled ★
Dragon Blade ★★★
Mountain Men ★★★

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

After Will schools a Harvard 'Michael Bolton clone' in the bar where he first meets Skylar, he tells the grad student, "I got her numba. How do you like dem apples?"

There's nothing more annoying than someone recounting their dreams. So let me tell you about a recurring one I used to have: I'm shooting hoops with Matt and Ben (we are on a first-name basis), while we talk about the screenplay for Good Will Hunting II — I'm helping them write it.

I think it was seeing the still baby-faced Damon and Affleck take the stage in 1997 to accept the Academy Award for best screenplay that launched my REM fantasy. Here were two practically unknowns, just a couple of years older than I was, who'd just won Oscars for their story about an orphan-turned-janitor at MIT who could solve equations on napkins that only a handful of people in the world could also figure out.

Good Will Hunting stayed with me — maybe because it's the last film I remember seeing in a theatre with my mom and brother. I can recite nearly the entire thing, which makes me a very annoying viewing companion.

I could see regret in the eyes of my partner, Simon, when we watched it Saturday night. I announced at least five times that my favourite scene was coming up; I recited the jokes (in a Boston accent) before the characters did; and, like clockwork, I cried at the end when Will's therapist Sean, a role which earned Robin Williams an Academy Award, confronts him. "It's not your fault."

THE MOVIE: Good Will Hunting

THE MEAL: Hand-picked apples

Every year around Labour Day, I watch it. Maybe that's on account of the campus scenes — the hustle and bustle of students toting backpacks in lecture halls.

Or maybe it's the apples. You know the scene: After Will schools a Harvard "Michael Bolton clone" in the bar where he first meets Skylar, he tells the grad student, "I got her numba. How do you like dem apples?"

Coincidentally, my neighbour messaged me on Sunday to say that her apple tree was bearing more fruit than she knew what to do with and gave me enough for at least a couple of pies.

The only trouble was when I bit down into one, I knew I couldn't bear to bake them. They are small and tart, with a touch of sweet, and possess a crunch that caused me to have a Proustian moment: These are the apples of my childhood. The kind we'd pick every autumn and devour before my mom could use them up for something else. The kind that made me spit the mealy, imported sort.

I still occasionally daydream about Damon and Affleck. Does Matt now lecture Ben on how to make a marriage last? Do they get together every now and then, and watch J Lo's Jenny From the Block video?

Does something as simple as a perfectly tart apple remind them of bygone days, when they brought their moms to the Academy Awards on the cusp of finding fame and fortune?

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

MOVIE BRIEFS

Blanchett to play iconic star of I Love Lucy fame

Actress Cate Blanchett will take on the role of Lucille Ball in an upcoming biopic, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Aaron Sorkin will write the script for the film, which will focus on the iconic actress's life and long-spanning career. Ball won four Emmys during her career and was nominated 13 times.

She held the starring role in TV sitcoms I Love Lucy, The Lucy Show, Life with Lucy, The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour and Here's Lucy.

Lucie Arnaz and Desi Arnaz Jr., Ball's children with husband Desi Arnaz, will produce the film alongside Escape Artists.

Australian actress Blanchett has most recently been seen in films Cinderella and Carol. AFP

Cate Blanchett. GETTY IMAGES

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HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

DreamWorks looking for new park to play in, sources say

Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks film studio plans to part ways with Disney when their distribution tie-up ends in a year's time, an industry source told AFP on Wednesday.

Trade reports suggest Spielberg is looking to negotiate a new partnership with more favourable terms, boosted by the runaway success of Jurassic World, on which he was executive producer.

Universal — the Hollywood studio behind the blockbuster dinosaur series — is being tipped as Spielberg's likely new home by both the Hollywood Reporter and Variety.

According to an industry insider who did not wish to be named, it is too soon to say who will be distributing DreamWorks' production after the Disney deal ends on Aug. 16, 2016.

But the source told AFP that DreamWorks, which Spielberg helped found in 1994, feels out of step with the Disney model and its focus on big, tentpole films such as new Star Wars instalments or Pixar's animated mega-hit Inside Out.

Disney's focus — exemplified by the acquisition in recent years of Marvel, Lucasfilm and Pixar — is firmly on movies that can be spun off into lucrative video games, amusement parks, branded toys and knick-knacks.

Spielberg executive-produced Jurassic World, third-highest grossing film in history. CONTRIBUTED

DreamWorks meanwhile has been focusing on smaller, adult-oriented movies such as The Help or, more recently, The Hundred-Foot Journey with Helen Mirren.

DreamWorks signed a multiple-year distribution contract with Disney in 2009, after splitting from Paramount.

Spielberg's hand was strengthened in Hollywood by this year's Jurassic World $1.6 billion box office takings. A sequel is already slated for release in 2018, also starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, and with Spielberg as executive producer. AFP

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Good bones for a bad guy

Ed Skrein believes his bone structure may be behind his getting chosen to play evil characters.
HANDOUT

VILLAIN ROLES

Despite his casting, actor says he is a big teddy bear

Ned Ehrbar
For Metro

Ed Skrein swears he's a nice guy, despite appearances.

The British actor and rapper steps in for Jason Statham in The Transporter: Refueled, the fourth film in the fast-car franchise, and he'll soon be seen in the dark comedy Kill Your Friends and doing battle with Ryan Reynolds in Deadpool as the villain Ajax.

When you're stepping into a franchise role like this, what sort of hesitations or trepidations go along with that?
That doesn't play into it for me. It isn't really a factor, you know? And when taking on a role like this, I have the same preparation I would have normally (while) taking on a small European independent movie with a character that's never been played by anyone else. You find the character, you find the wiring and you work out how they make decisions.

Did you watch the previous films to prepare?
I did. I'd never seen them before, and it was so important for me to watch them, to know what the fans expected and what had come previously. I think it would be ignorant of me to have not. And after that it was important for me to just move on and focus on my own approach.

These films are so technically specific.
It's fascinating, and it's why I love my job. I finished The Transporter, and a week later I went onto a Danish independent movie, which I think the budget was three million euros and we had a crew of 26 people. We shot it all Dogma-style, Danish style — very little makeup, very little lighting, one camera — and it was fascinating to see the difference in approach. For me, that's the blueprint going forward, and that's the joy of this craft, is to be able to have the yin and the yang and to balance between the two.

You're also in the darkly comic Kill Your Friends, which debuts at TIFF.
It's an incredible book. Quintessentially dark, British humour. I would've cleaned the toilets on set, I was so excited to be a part of it. Also, it's a different role for me. A lot of the stuff that I've done has been pretty heavy, pretty dark. People tend to gravitate towards me when they want dark stuff. I can't think why. Even when I do comedy, I do it dark like Deadpool and Kill Your Friends.

If you were to speculate as to why people think of you for these darker things ...
I think my bone structure suggests that I am a violent person (laughs). But in real life, I'm a teddy bear. I'm a pacifist in every sense. I think even when I do a neutral face I look like I'm going to stab you in the eye. Darkness is something that I enjoy exploring in cinema because I don't have darkness in my life. My life is very light and just about my family, very calm and ordinary. Maybe the cinema and this craft is my therapy. I get to kill people and beat people up and be immensely horrible and evil on camera and live my days nine to five as a sociopath, and then I go home and I've got it out of my system.

That sounds very healthy, actually.
You should try it.

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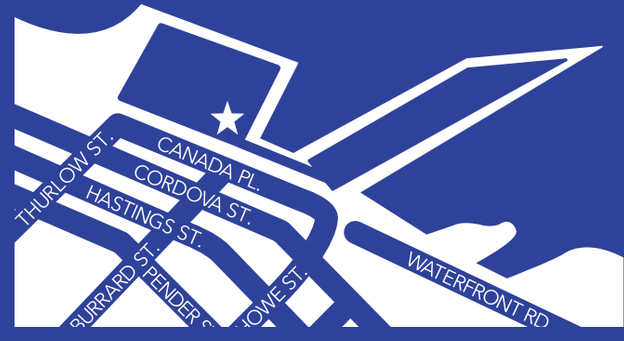

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Jackie Chan still kicking it on screen

INTERVIEW

At 61, the action star shows no signs of slowing down

Steve Gow
Metro Life

He may have karate-chopped his way to become one of the world's biggest actors, but even 40 years of action haven't slowed down Jackie Chan. Dragon Blade — the Hong Kong star's latest thriller — sees the much-loved martial artist leading a theorized war epic about lost Romans duelling Chinese guards along the Silk Road trade route. Metro caught up with Chan to find out why, at 61, he's happy to keep filming.

Dragon Blade was the most expensive Chinese film ever made. Why was it so important to you?
The heart of this story is completely captivating. The idea that the world's two greatest civilizations had an encounter that was never recorded in history! How could I not want to make this film? It also allows me to touch on philosophical issues that are important to me and to director Daniel Lee — like peace.

Even though Dragon Blade is an action film, there are bits of comedy. Is comedy just natural for you as an actor?
It's not necessarily deliberate but it just comes out. My next film is also an action-comedy so I guess I can never fully escape the genre. But I'm trying to vary my range and be seen as an actor who does comedy and action. I hope you'll recognize that in Dragon Blade.

You've said that when you were young, box-office success was important. How has that changed?
The box office result was very important when I was young. If my films had no box office, people wouldn't invite me to make another film. I had to feed my family, so making money came first…now I feel a responsibility towards society and the world. So my mind has changed and I don't care so much about the box office. I want to make the movies I want to make and spread my message.

You have lots of upcoming projects — what can you tell me about Karate Kid 2?
The next Karate Kid script is still being written. On the one hand we want a script that everybody is proud of so we've been really demanding. On the other hand, Jaden is getting older. Soon, he'll be taller than me and his dad! But I can see it happening soon.

SEQUELS

More Rush Hour?
The buddy-cop franchise that paired Chan with funnyman Chris Tucker has spawned two sequels with another possibly on the way. "Chris and I both agreed that we need a really good story to move forward," said Chan. "People keep asking me about Rush Hour, so I guess we better work harder."

Jackie Chan stars in Dragon Blade, the most expensive Chinese film ever made. It opens this Friday. HANDOUT

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DISNEY CHANNEL LAUNCH

Zendaya-um! Teen's star on the rise

This was a big week for Zendaya.

First of all, on Tuesday it was the actress/singer/dancer's 19th birthday.

And on that same day, Zendaya became the face of the Disney Channel as Corus Entertainment launched the specialty service in Canada. Fans will be able to binge on a marathon session of her tween sitcom K.C. Undercover.

Zendaya is on Disney's fast track to fame. In 2009, she landed Disney's TV series Shake It Up and soon after was recording a solo album for Hollywood Records.

In 2013, she went deep on Dancing with the Stars and ended up the runner-up to country music star Kellie Pickler. Zendaya was just 16 at the time, the youngest DWTS celebrity contestant ever.

She's just taped a guest appearance on the second season of the ABC sitcom Black-ish. She'll also be a celebrity judge (along with Canadian Shark Tank star Kevin O'Leary) on ABC's coverage of the 2016 Miss America Competition, which will air on Sept. 13.

Zendaya is also heading back into the studio to finish work on her second album. She cites Michael Jackson as her favourite artist — although she's also crushing on Drake. "Everyone loves Drake," she says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Taryn Manning and Lea DeLaria in Season 3 of Orange is the New Black. JOJO WHILDEN/NETFLIX

Don't box us in, OITNB creator says

ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK

Emmy rules switch hit show from comedy to drama category

The creator of Orange Is the New Black says though the Emmys switched the hit show from the comedy category to drama, she's not a fan of people boxing the series into a single genre.

"The whole label thing is frustrating — just people's needs to define us. OK, you know, whatever you want to call us, fine," Jenji Kohan said in an interview Wednesday. "Are we a comedy? Are we a drama? ... Are we doing good work or not? Do you like us or not? As you can hear, I have issues with the whole, you know, beauty contest thing. It's fraud."

The show, in its third season on Netflix, is nominated for outstanding drama series at the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards, which airs on Fox at 8 p.m. ET on Sept. 20, though last year it competed for outstanding comedy series.

The Television Academy announced this year that shows with episodes of 30 minutes or less are now designated a comedy, while those over a half-hour are dramas. Netflix's petition to keep the hour-long OITNB in the comedy category was denied, according to a report by Variety. Also nominated in the drama category are AMC's Better Call Saul, PBS' Downton Abbey, HBO's Game of Thrones, Showtime's Homeland, and AMC's Mad Men.

"(To say), 'You're in this box and you're in that box' — we've always been hard to define; we're kind of a hybrid, and people feel this need to call us something, and I don't feel the same need to say what we are. So, that's on them," Kohan said.

This year, OITNB earned a Golden Globe nomination for best television series, musical or comedy and won outstanding performance by an ensemble in a comedy series at the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

> **We've always been hard to define; we're kind of a hybrid**
> OITNB creator Jenji Kohan

"We're funny when we feel we need to be funny and we're dramatic when we feel we need to be dramatic 'cause hopefully we're reflecting life. And life is never just a drama, just a comedy," Kohan said. "And I don't know why you have to say it's one thing or the other."

At the Emmys OITNB is also nominated for outstanding casting for a drama series, outstanding supporting actress in a drama series for Emmy winner Uzo Aduba and outstanding guest actor in a drama series for Pablo Schreiber. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WES CRAVEN

A look back at the work of the man who brought us Freddy Krueger

Chris Alexander
Metro Life

In 1984 Wes Craven gave the world Freddy Krueger in A Nightmare on Elm Street. ALL PHOTOS: HANDOUT

The cult of Craven

The lights have dimmed on the world of horror as fans worldwide mourn the passing of one of their heroes: Wes Craven, an icon of contemporary genre filmmaking lost his battle with brain cancer this past Sunday, leaving behind a four-decade legacy of boundary-pushing cinema.

And yet despite his bloody, often perverse resumé (the director started making hardcore pornography before turning his talents to making such still-shocking, confrontation pictures as The Last House on The Left and The Hills Have Eyes), Craven was the gentleman of the genre; a kind and sophisticated human being whose work almost always was alive with lofty ideas, dark humour and slick style.

While some of Craven's films were more successful in defining the parameters of horror history than others, all of his work maintained some level of interest; all of his work mattered.

Metro takes a brief look at some of Craven's most memorable (and not so memorable) works.

Essential Wes

The Hills Have Eyes (1977): This brutal survivalist horror film took its cues from both Deliverance and The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, but emerged as something new: a violent, domestic tragedy by way of sun-baked Spaghetti Western. Craven's first true masterpiece.

A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984): What can be said about this landmark, oft-sequelized slasher shocker that hasn't already been said? ANOES remains a jet black, hallucinatory landmark, ground zero for Craven's deranged, razor-gloved horror anti-hero Freddy Krueger…not to mention the movie that gave us Johnny Depp.

New Nightmare (1994): After having his "baby" turned into a beaten down cartoon, Craven reclaimed Freddy for this mind-bending, self-referential satire that sent up the Elm Street series, while also serving as a genuinely affecting horror film in its own right, one whose tone laid the foundation for…

Scream (1996): Writer Kevin Williamson's snappy script became the salvation for '90s horror at the hands of Craven, whose vigorous directing zapped this "meta" slasher movie to gory, goofy and deliriously clever (almost too clever, according to some critics). After the success of Scream, the genre bolted back to life and never looked back.

Near-Classic Craven

The Serpent and the Rainbow (1988): Craven's stylish attempt to film Wade Davis' popular memoir of black magic and zombies in the fringes of Haiti should have been better than it was. Sophisticated and filled with terrifying imagery, the movie gets bogged down in trying to be a commercial '80s horror film and loses steam towards the finale.

The People Under the Stairs (1991): This maniacal socio-political horror comedy mind-bender is jam-packed with oddball action and palpable shocks. But its over-reliance on smartass humour works against its darker ideas and the movie falls apart at the climax.

Fascinating Failures

The Hills Have Eyes Part 2 (1985): Craven made this one on the cheap, quickly, following ANOES's success and it's a legendary misstep. In it, the survivor of the original shocker returns to the desert with his dog, only to find more cannibal mutants. Said dog famously has a ludicrous flashback, an excuse for Craven to pad the films' running time with footage from the first film.

Deadly Friend (1986): A deeply strange, hilariously '80s rethink of the Frankenstein story by way of a sort of John Hughes-ish teen romance that sees the girl next door (Kristy Swanson) rebuilt as a vengeful zombie robot. Terminally goofy but so out there that it sort of stands alone.

Here's to Wes Craven. Gone…but never, ever forgotten.

The Hills Have Eyes

Deadly Friend

The People Under The Stairs

Scream

TIFF LORDY, LORDY LOOK WHO'S 40

The Toronto International Film Festival turns 40 this year and with that milestone birthday comes 40-year-old angst.

The one-time upstart — originally snubbed by Hollywood bigwigs who deemed it a small-town affair — has become one of the industry's biggest players, and as such, an easy target for criticism from all corners.

Depending on who you talk to, it's either too big, too glitzy, or too exclusive.

Even those powerful Hollywood bigwigs were suddenly calling TIFF a bully last year, for demanding that films destined for coveted theatres and time slots premiere in Toronto.

"Americans!" festival CEO Piers Handling huffs, while recalling the brouhaha that forced TIFF to tame its stance this year.

"Which I thought was a bit ironic that they were calling us 'imperialistic' and 'bullies.' The Americans? Some of whom, by the way, were my closest friends."

Forty years ago, festival founders could only dream of such attention.

Back in 1976, when TIFF launched with the name Festival of Festivals, Hollywood studios feigned interest in the new Canadian showcase only to pull their films at the last minute, recalls co-founder Bill Marshall.

"The studios didn't believe in film festivals, particularly not in Canada," says Marshall, noting that changed when L.A. critics lauded the inaugural outing.

"So in '77 they all came back saying, 'Oh, we'd really like to help you.' They didn't mean it, but they tried.... They gave us things they thought were dogs."

That included Lawrence Kasdan's ensemble drama The Big Chill in 1983, a seemingly lightweight flick with a young cast including Glenn Close, Kevin Kline and William Hurt.

"They thought that was going to be a dog and it got huge ovations here and went on to be the biggest movie of the year and win all the awards," says Marshall.

"So that was the turning point."

Co-founder Henk Van der Kolk never imagined TIFF itself would grow this large."We weren't setting out to make the world's biggest and most successful film festival," he says.

"We set out to make a festival so we could get some notice for the Canadian film industry.... And boy, did it ever happen."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro TRAVEL

Your essential daily news

Where is the love? Vegas weddings down 37% over past decade; economy, notoriety cited

Cape Breton's new headliner

Cabot Cliffs sweeps along oceanside bluffs just to the north of Inverness. PHOTOS COURTESY CABOT LINKS

NOVA SCOTIA

Cabot Cliffs adds to island's world-famous golf reputation

Brian Kendall
canadiangolftraveller.com

Cape Breton has always punched above its weight among Canadian golf destinations. But the early rave reviews for Cabot Cliffs, the island's wildly anticipated new course, seems almost an excess of good fortune.

Set on soaring oceanside bluffs just outside the town of Inverness, Cabot Cliffs is the sister course of Cabot Links, a world-renowned seaside links that instantly became a flagship for the Canadian golf industry when it launched in 2011.

But Cabot Cliffs might be even more spectacular. No fewer than eight holes offer endless views of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Especially unforgettable is the 16th, a par three chiselled into a jagged cliff. The inland holes sweep through sculpted dunes and woodlands before returning to the sea.

Designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, golf's hottest design team, Cabot Cliffs is already being compared to Pebble Beach, Cypress Point and several more of the world's most dramatically beautiful courses.

Cape Breton, a Nova Scotia island of charming villages and panoramic vistas along the Cabot Trail, has long ranked among Canada's top golf destinations. Located in the quiet north shore community of Ingonish is Highlands Links, a Stanley Thompson-designed masterpiece that has anchored Maritimes golf since 1941. Rounding out a strong roster are Bell Bay Golf Club, The Lakes Golf Club and Le Portage Golf Club.

> **Golf has become as essential to the fabric of life in Inverness as it is in Scotland's St. Andrews.**

Clifftop drama: the signature par-three 16th at Cabot Cliffs.

Golf has become the lifeblood of local tourism. Before the opening of Cabot Links and the quietly elegant Cabot Links Lodge, Inverness was a hardscrabble former coal mining town where the big attractions were salmon fishing on the Margaree River and the twice-weekly harness races at Inverness Raceway. Townspeople also boast that their beach offers the warmest ocean waters north of the Carolinas.

Today, stylish new houses are under construction, real-estate prices are climbing, and the tired-looking main street is being given a facelift.

With tourists arriving from around the world, golf has become as essential to the fabric of life in Inverness as it is in Scotland's St. Andrews.

The original course, Cabot Links, is set just beyond the beach in the heart of town. Glimpses of the green and rumpled links are visible from almost everywhere in Inverness. A long public boardwalk extends between the beach and the fairways closest to the sea, enabling strollers to feel a part of the action.

And now, just to the north of town, Cabot Cliffs is welcoming golfers for preview rounds before its official launch next spring.

How lucky can Cape Breton get?

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Accommodations with a side of art

MORE THAN HOTELS

Where to find unique stays among murals, ice sculptures

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

The Skwachàys Lodge in Vancouver. COURTESY TOURISM VANCOUVER

If you are a culture vulture who prefers hotels that offer more than just bed and breakfast, consider staying at one of the following purveyors of the arts.

Cosy, with cocktails

With only 19 guest rooms, Toronto's Drake Hotel still manages to be the west end's epicentre of cool. From the hotel's inception, the promotion and sharing of art was always part of the guest experience.

There are site-specific installations throughout the hotel from conceptual installations to murals to kinetic sculptures. The collection is grounded in contemporary Canadian art with works by notable artists such as Ken Lum, Isabelle Hayeur and Evan Penny. The cocktail list is pretty memorable, too!

Aboriginal art

Opened in the fall of 2014, the 18-room boutique Skwachàys Lodge in Vancouver is perfect for people interested in British Columbia's aboriginal art scene. Six of the city's top hotel designers worked with six First Nations artists to create 18 unique art installations, one for each guest room. The hotel also features an artists' workshop, traditional smudge room and sweat lodge and is crowned by a rooftop totem pole that reaches high above the city skyline.

Owned by the Vancouver Native Housing Society, 100 per cent of the hotel's profits go toward providing safe and affordable housing for Vancouver's urban aboriginal population.

Keeping cool

The Hôtel de Glace outside of Quebec City is the only ice hotel in North America and, despite lacking some creature comforts (only a pillow and medium-sized mattress in the rooms), is a breathtaking work of art. Built over a six-week period and open only during the winter months, the hotel is redesigned every year by a combination of tradesmen and skilled artisans.

This past year's theme of space and time was represented in frozen sculptures of everything from a Japanese tea ceremony to the lunar landing, carved into the walls of the hotel. This year's theme will be announced in December.

Contemporary in N.Z.

If you are travelling internationally, a personal favourite of mine is the Museum Art Hotel in Wellington, New Zealand.

This 165-room European-inspired boutique hotel is perfectly situated in the city centre, opposite the city's stunning harbour and Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum.

Although one could endlessly people-watch the city's hipsters and trendsetters who frequent the hotel's Hippopotamus restaurant and bar, I could not take my eyes off the art.

Owner Chris Parkin showcases more than 100 ceramics, paintings and other contemporary pieces, like a limited-edition MV Agusta motorcycle, throughout the hotel.

TRAVEL NOTES

Sunspot expansion
Antigua and Barbuda recently doubled the capacity of its V.C. Bird International Airport with a new terminal, one of the most modern in the Caribbean. The $130-million-plus green-energy building will offer more of everything, including expedited access to the twin-island nation's 365 beaches, three VIP lounges and a pet restroom. Go to VisitAntiguaBarbuda.com.

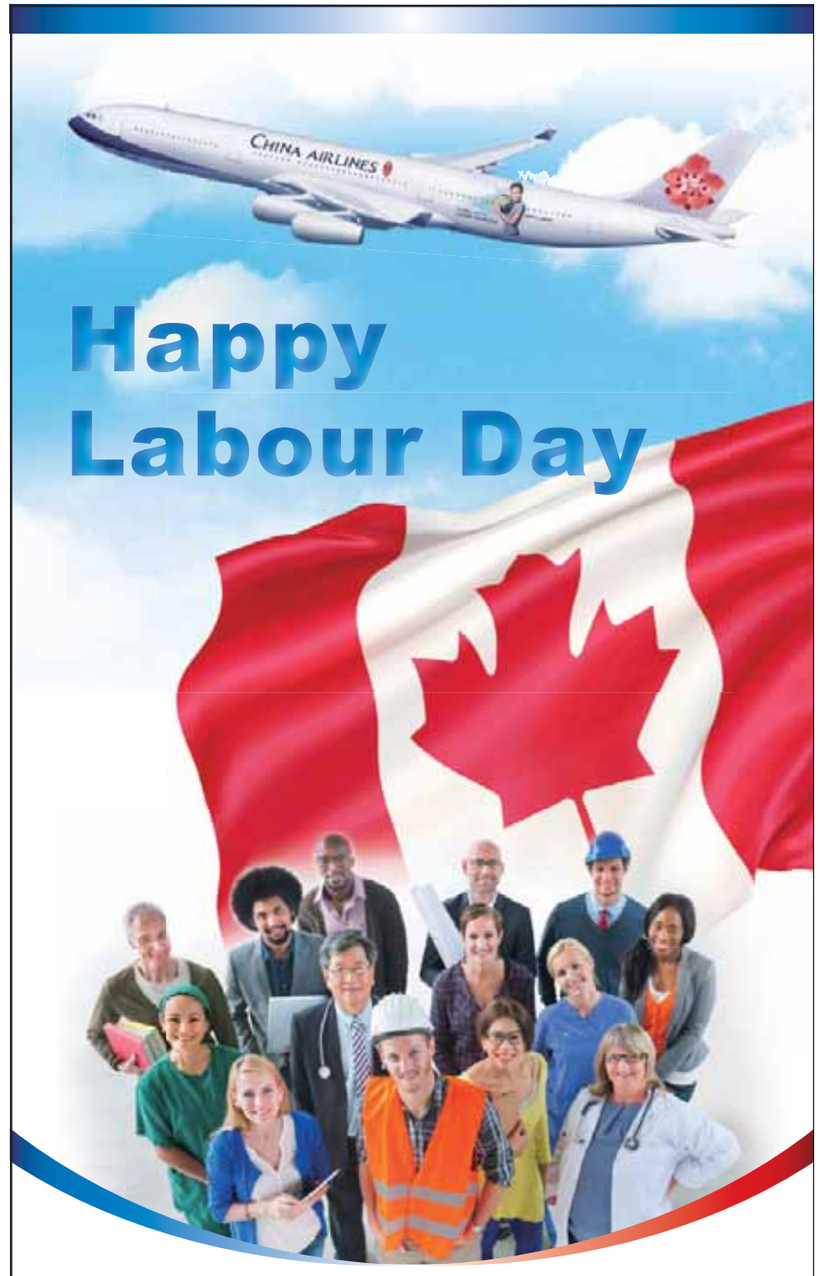
Travel trend
Frequent flyers beware: A recent study says business travel may be harder on you than you think. Your glam job jetting around is costing you physically (jet lag and fatigue, airplane food, radiation), emotionally (missing your family/spouse), psychologically (you may be addicted to "hypermobility") and socially (friends never know when you're around, so they don't call).

North Korea marathon
Intrepid Travel added North Korea to its roster last week, launching a Pyongyang Marathon Expedition set for next April. Travellers participate in the city's full- or half-marathon, or 10-km run, followed by a week of guided tours of landmarks such as the demilitarized zone, Mount Myohyang and the city of Pyongsong. From $3,130. Visit IntrepidTravel.com. DOUG WALLACE

Jabberwock Beach, Antigua and Barbuda. CONTRIBUTED

Is your jet-setting job making you miserable? PEXELS.COM

More than 650 internationals ran in the Pyongyang Marathon last year. CONTRIBUTED



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metro SPORTS

Sprinter Andre De Grasse is forgoing estimated six-figure endorsement deals to return to USC for his senior year

Lions pounce on Alouettes

CFL

Beck tosses two TDs in relief of injured Lulay

The Lions' Alex Bazzie sacks Alouettes quarterback Tanner Marsh on Thursday in Montreal. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quarterback John Beck came on in relief and got the B.C. Lions a victory, but now he may have to try his hand at being the starter.

Beck replaced the injured Travis Lulay midway through the first quarter and threw touchdown passes to Lavelle Hawkins and Austin Collie as the Lions downed the punchless Montreal Alouettes 25-16 on Thursday night.

Lulay suffered a suspected torn MCL ligament in his left knee. Further tests will determine how long he will be out of action.

"You never want to see Travis go down," said 34-year-old Beck. "We hope the news will be the least severe, but I'm glad to come out and do my job.

"The guys did a great job of rallying. We felt pretty comfortable out there."

Beck, in his second season with the Lions, went 14-for-22 for 114 yards and two TDs, but also threw his first two CFL interceptions.

It helped that his Montreal counterpart Tanner Marsh had a dreadful night, passing for only 103 yards while throwing five interceptions, fumbling the ball away once and not producing an offensive touchdown.

"For the defence to have that many turnovers, it shouldn't be that close of a football game," said Beck.

Eric Fraser scored on an interception return and Richie Leone had a field goal and a single on a missed 50-yard attempt for the Lions (4-5), who were coming off a 23-13 loss to Montreal two weeks ago in Vancouver.

Jonathan Hefney returned an interception for a TD and Boris Bede had three field goals for Montreal (4-6), which ended a two-game winning run.

THURSDAY In Montreal

LIONS	ALOUETTES
25	16

General manager Jim Popp, 1-1 since taking over as head coach from Tom Higgins, took the blame on himself and his coaching staff for the poor outing by Marsh, who started because Rakeem Cato was in Florida attending to a family emergency.

"I know we threw interceptions but we had a lot of protection problems," said Popp. "We've got to give our guys a better chance than that.

"He had pressure in his face all night. We have to do a better job coaching."

He thought briefly about turning to Canadian backup Brandon Bridge, but opted to stick with Marsh.

"We discussed it, but unfortunately, Cato took reps for the first part of the week along with Tanner and Brandon had limited reps, so he didn't have the same playbook. I know the coaches felt strongly about staying with Tanner."

Montreal wasted a brilliant game from ex-Lion Stefan Logan, who had 246 kick return yards.

Nik Lewis gained 33 yards to pass Arland Bruce (11,614) for 10th all-time in receiving yards.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL IN BRIEF

Tebow states his case to make Eagles roster

Tim Tebow threw two touchdown passes and an interception in his final opportunity to make Philadelphia's roster, and the Eagles fell to the New York Jets 24-18 on Thursday night.

Tebow, competing with Matt Barkley for the No. 3 quarterback job, flashed some of the playmaking and inconsistency that have made him so polarizing. He finished 11 of 17 for 189 yards, and added 32 yards on four rushes.

Barkley was 4 of 9 for 45 yards and an interception for the Eagles (3-1).

Matt Flynn started for the Jets (3-1) and was 10 of 14 for 136 yards with two TDs and an interception.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Packers' backups run roughshod over Saints

Rookie quarterback Brett Hundley threw for four scores, Myles White made a case for a spot on the Packers' injury-stricken receiving corps with two touchdowns, and Green Bay finished the preseason with a 38-10 win Thursday night over the New Orleans Saints (0-4).

Hundley connected with Larry Pinkard on a 77-yard touchdown pass off a catch-and-run in the third quarter for the Packers (2-2). Pinkard had a highlight-reel play that the roster longshot needed to make an impression with cuts looming. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Giants forward Tyler Popowich carries the puck during the first period of Wednesday's Alumni Challenge intrasquad game at the Ladner Leisure Centre. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Letting his play do the talking

VANCOUVER GIANTS

Popowich shines in intrasquad exhibition game

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Tyler Popowich may come across as soft-spoken, but his play at Vancouver Giants training camp has been anything but quiet.

Selected third overall in this spring's WHL Bantam Draft, the 15-year-old Popowich continued to impress during the Giants' Alumni Challenge intrasquad game, with two goals and two assists as Team Howe defeated Team Quinn 7-2 on Wednesday. His most recent performance follows a hat trick during a scrimmage earlier in camp.

It seemed wherever the puck was when Popowich was on the ice, the Okanagan Hockey Academy product was in threatening proximity.

That often marked trouble for Team Quinn.

"Supporting the puck, it will come to you sometimes," said Popowich, who is from Surrey. "Just got lucky tonight."

Since his earliest moments in the Giants organization, Popowich has been closely connected to some of the franchise's top alumni members that have moved on to the National Hockey League.

Moments after the Giants selected Popowich, he received tweets of congratulations from Milan Lucic, now with the L.A. Kings and Brendan Gallagher of the Montreal Canadiens.

This summer, Popowich worked out with Giants strength and conditioning coach Ian Gallagher, giving him the chance to spend time training with Gallagher — the Habs forward — and Lance Bouma, another former Giant who earned his way to the Calgary Flames.

At the club's annual barbecue right before the beginning of camp, Lucic is said to have sought out Popowich to offer words of wisdom.

"He had the nervous look, the happy look and Milan was direct with him. If you know Milan, he was pretty direct. And he just told him, 'Listen to the people here. It worked for me,'" said GM Scott Bonner.

Popowich can only play five games with the Giants as a 15-year-old — until his season with the Okanagan Hockey Academy concludes. At that point, he can be called up to the Giants for the remainder of the season.

As for training camp, Popowich has let his game on the ice speak for itself.

"A lot of those kids who have his pedigree ... they can tend to get a little arrogant," said Bonner. "He's not at all. He's a real humble kid."

SOCCER

Settling in for the stretch run

Tim Parker picked his NFL fantasy football team. Jordan Harvey spent time working on a baby nursery.

After a jam-packed August that included eight games in 29 days, the Vancouver Whitecaps were in the unfamiliar position of having some down time this week.

No one was complaining.

"We didn't know what to do with ourselves," said Parker, a 22-year-old rookie defender. "We did a fantasy football draft ... I'm planning on winning that league."

But where Parker and his teammates are really focused is building on a strong spring and summer in Major League Soccer that has seen the Whitecaps climb to second in the overall standings behind the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Vancouver finished last month 4-2-2 in all competitions, including a victory over the Montreal Impact for its first Amway Canadian Championship.

September will see the Whitecaps play just five times, with a 10-day break between their last game, a 2-0 loss at the Houston Dynamo on Aug. 29, before they host the Colorado Rapids next Wednesday.

"It's nice to get these opportunities throughout a season. You come back in, everybody's energized, really ready to get back at it," said Harvey, a 31-year-old defender who spent some of his time off building baby furniture with he and his wife's first child on the way.

Octavio Rivero leads all Whitecaps scorers with nine goals this MLS season. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **We recharged.**
> Whitecaps midfielder Mauro Rosales

"(The team is) just focusing on the good performances ... we need to fine-tune a few things, but once we've done that I think we'll be up and running again."

Veteran midfielder Mauro Rosales said the break came at the perfect time for a squad that has worked hard to earn respect after not getting much of it coming into the season.

"We recharged," said the 34-year-old. "We are really pleased about what happened in the last month. Now we have to move forward and keep our heads up and just move with the same mentality."

After rotating players in and out of the lineup during that eight-game marathon, Whitecaps head coach Carl Robinson said he hopes to settle into a relatively consistent starting 11 with just seven league matches remaining.

The Whitecaps sit second in the West behind L.A. with a game in hand and play all three of their league matches this month at home, where Vancouver is 7-4-1.

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Brady's ban lifted by judge

NFL 'DEFLATEGATE'

Ruling states Patriots QB not treated fairly by league

Tom Brady GETTY IMAGES

Roger Goodell GETTY IMAGES

Tom Brady learned Thursday he will start the season on the field after a judge lifted the league's four-game suspension of the star quarterback for a scandal over deflated footballs, saying he was treated unfairly by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. The league quickly appealed.

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman criticized Goodell for dispensing "his own brand of industrial justice" as he found multiple reasons to reject the suspension one week before New England's Sept. 10 opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Super Bowl MVP has insisted he played no role in a conspiracy to deflate footballs below the allowable limit at last season's AFC championship game, a 45-7 rout of the Indianapolis Colts.

The judge cited "several significant legal deficiencies" in the league's handling of the controversy, including no advanced notice of potential penalties, a refusal to produce a key witness and the apparent first-ever discipline of a player based on a finding of "general awareness" of someone else's wrongdoing.

"Because there was no notice of a four-game suspension in the circumstances presented here, Commissioner Goodell may be said to have 'dispensed his own brand of industrial justice,"' Berman wrote, partially citing wording from a previous case.

Goodell said it was necessary to appeal "to uphold the collectively bargained responsibility to protect the integrity of the game." He called the need to secure the game's competitive fairness "a paramount principle."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EURO 2016 QUALIFYING ICELAND STUNS NETHERLANDS Netherlands' Wesley Sneijder, in orange, walks off the pitch while Iceland players celebrate a 1-0 win at the ArenA stadium, in Amsterdam. Iceland stay top of Group A while third-placed Netherlands are now in danger of missing the tournament. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BASKETBALL

Stauskas' skills help Canada defeat Venezuela

Nik Stauskas had a team-high 16 points as Canada earned its second straight victory at the FIBA Americas men's basketball championship, downing Venezuela 82-62 on Thursday.

All five of Canada's starters finished in double digits. Kelly Olynyk dropped 14 points, Andrew Wiggins had 13 while Cory Joseph and Anthony Bennett each had 10.

Nestor Colmenares led Venezuela (2-1) with 16 points. Canada's Dwight Powell left the game in the first half after landing awkwardly on the floor. His status post-game was unknown, but he did return to the team bench for the second half.

The Canadians (2-1), who are looking to finish in the top two in Mexico to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics, jumped out to a 25-15 advantage after the first quarter and increased it to 47-28 by halftime.

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RECIPE Mediterranean Burger with Tzatziki and Arugula

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Tzatziki is a Greek sauce made from strained yogurt and mixed with cucumbers, garlic, salt, olive oil and lemon juice.

Serves 4

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
Burger
- 1 lb ground lean beef
- 3 Tbsp diced onions
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 3 Tbsp barbecue sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp dried basil

Garnish
- 1/4 cup tzatziki (store-bought)
- 1 oz crumbled feta
- Tomato slices
- Cucumber slices
- Arugula

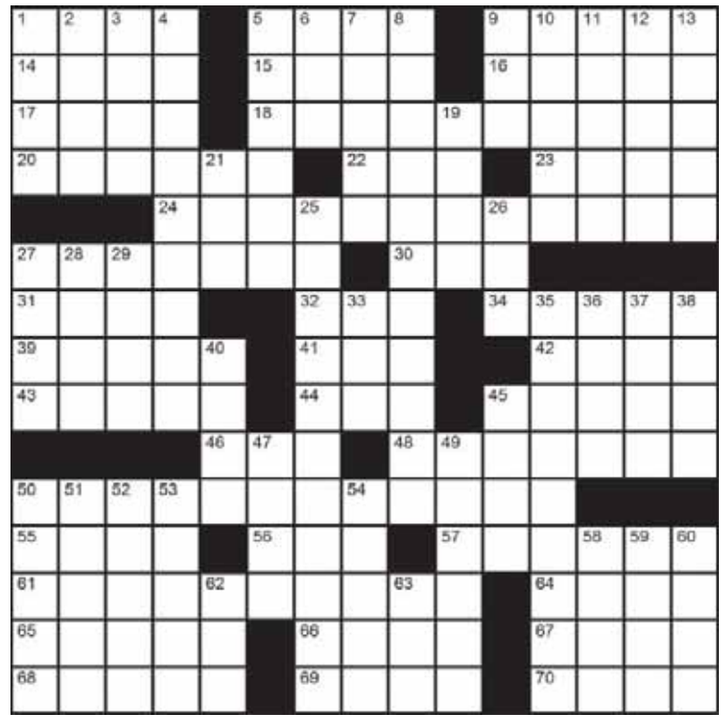
Directions
1. In a bowl, combine burger ingredients, mix well. Form into four burgers.
2. Grill or bake burgers at 400 F for approximately 10 to 12 minutes, or until temperature reaches 160 F.
3. Garnish with tzatziki, feta, tomato, cucumber and arugula.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 230
- Protein 26 g
- Carbohydrates 10 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Total fat 8 g
- Saturated fat 3 g
- Cholesterol 110 mg
- Sodium 380 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Mr. Cumming
5. Embassy worker, e.g.
9. Lathers
14. Shark type
15. "..._ _ tete, Alouette..."
16. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
17. Send forth
18. Beheld: 3 wds.
20. "Citizen Kane" (1941) estate
22. Big Apple newspaper, briefly
23. Sparkling wine city of Italy
24. Lotto Max's jackpot cap introduced this summer: 2 wds.
27. Environs
30. Do movies
31. Tennis great Mr. Nastase
32. US television station
34. Couches
39. Van _ & Arpels (Jewellery house)
41. Do movie soundtrack work
42. Farewell, to Catullus
43. Neutral tone
44. Seedy sandwich selection
45. Curt
46. 1977 Steely Dan album
48. Victoria, The _ Capital of British Columbia
50. Song from Hair co-written by Canada's very own Galt MacDermot: 4 wds.
55. "Away!"
56. L'Isle-_-Coudres, Quebec
57. Apply hairspray
61. Tweety's co-star Sylvester, for one: 2 wds.
64. "Right back _ _!" (Likewise)
65. Matthew McConaughey's wife Camila
66. Montreal-born singer Mr. Vannelli
67. "Jenny _": Paul McCartney ballad
68. 'Gang' suffixes (Criminals)
69. Canadian writer Mr. Martel
70. NASDAQ rival

DOWN
1. Charge card, e.g.
2. Priest of Tibet
3. Alike
4. Awake, basically: 2 wds.
5. Sumptuous
6. "Give _ _ rest already!"
7. _†the†Elder (Roman author of the encyclopedia Naturalis Historia)
8. Shakespeare... She who exclaimed "Out, damn'd spot! out, I say!": 2 wds.
9. Farm enclosure
10. L'_ (Cosmetics brand)
11. Also, in Abitibi
12. Prefix to 'type' (Mock-up)
13. _-_-law (Family member)
19. 'Synth' suffix
21. Nero's 502
25. Mode of transport in Churchill, Manitoba for tourists viewing polar bears: 2 wds.
26. Fire dept. ranks
27. Ancient Scot
28. "The Producers" (2005) role
29. Andre _ (Dutch violinist/conductor)
33. Purchase
35. Like a bank account without sufficient funds
36. 'Yukon's Best Kept Secret' town
37. To boot
38. Feel
40. Achievement
45. Baseball field covering
47. Comic actress Ms. Cusack
49. Songstress Sheena
50. "Como _?" = "How are you?" in Spanish
51. Grind to _ _
52. Figure out
53. Oxen harness maker, say
54. _-_ _ agent (Former employee of The Company)
58. Macy Gray hit: 2 wds.
59. Nautical ropes
60. "Titanic" (1997) star Billy
62. Mag. edition
63. Ms. Jillian

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone will turn up the pressure on you today but you refuse to be beaten. There is a determination about Aries that makes you a formidable enemy. The more others attack the more you will dig in your heels.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Every suggestion you make lately seems to be met with disapproval. You won't change their attitude, so you might as well go off by yourself and do your own thing.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something dramatic is likely to happen either to you directly or to others in such a way that it affects you as well. Keep your wits about you and no harm will come.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your beliefs and opinions will come under fire today and there may be a very good reason for it. Could it be that some of your ideas went out of fashion years ago? Maybe it's time to bring yourself more up to date.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You have huge responsibilities and you may be tempted to run away from them. But the only way to lessen the burden of your responsibilities is to fulfill them to the letter.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you like a challenge then you will enjoy what happens today. No matter how tough the task you face, or how strong the opposition, you must not back down.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You must trust your instincts even if everyone else seems to be moving in a different direction. Sometimes logic is not the best guide and sometimes it pays not to follow the herd.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Be friendly with everyone you meet today. Some people will be less than friendly in return but it's about how you choose to behave, not how a minority of idiots choose to react.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There can be no more playing around — you must make a decision and you must make it now. It won't be easy and not everyone will approve, but if you don't act now you may never get the chance.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It might be unwise to speak your mind today, even if you are in the right and someone else is in the wrong. You are going to have to work closely with this person in the future, so think before you speak.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Cosmic activity in the wealth area of your chart means you need to tighten your belt now so you can enjoy the benefits later on. The less you spend today the more cash will be available to spend tomorrow.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Confrontation is likely today. Resist the urge to pull rank on people you work with, because they will get back at you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

3				9				4
		6	8		2	5		
	9			3			7	
	8		6		7		9	
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2				6				5

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